

school and make sure they succeed. And money will also be dedicated to community colleges, like Northern Marianas College, to help them finance new projects and cover existing needs.

Higher education is truly the investment of a lifetime—it creates opportunities and opens doors that will benefit our students and families far into the future. I applaud this legislation.

ADVANCED VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3246) to provide for a program of research, development, demonstration and commercial application in vehicle technologies at the Department of Energy:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my support for the Advanced Vehicle Technology Act (H.R. 3246). I thank Chairman GORDON and the members of the Science and Technology Committee for their work on this important legislation, which will fuel innovation in the American automobile sector and capitalize on America's manufacturing infrastructure to spur the creation of millions of well-paying American jobs and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Our country's approach to developing advanced technology vehicles must be comprehensive and coordinated to ensure innovation and advancement in our entire vehicle fleet. Historically, the Vehicle Technologies program at the U.S. Department of Energy has lacked a comprehensive approach to research and development, with various technologies competing for funding and imbalanced investment in between passenger and heavy duty vehicles research. The Advanced Vehicle Technology Act addresses these issues through authorization of long-term, sustained funding for a new comprehensive research and development program at the Department of Energy. H.R. 3246 invests in a diverse range of near-term and long-range vehicle technologies that will improve fuel efficiency, support domestic research and manufacturing, and reduce our country's dependence on petroleum that pollutes our planet and keeps us dependent on foreign energy sources. Such a comprehensive approach will fuel American innovation now and into the future.

Innovation is America's greatest strength. As our country recovers from a serious recession, funding for research and development is one of the best investments we can make to restore our American leadership in the global economy. America excels at high tech manufacturing, and investing in the development of a new generation of advanced technology vehicles will drive the creation of millions of new, well paying manufacturing jobs here at home. Innovation in vehicle technologies is also an important component in addressing the pressing challenge of global climate change. America's passenger and commercial transport sec-

tor produces one third of our country's total carbon dioxide emissions. Meeting the challenge of global climate change will require the development of a new generation of vehicles powered with clean energy.

Modernizing our nation's vehicle fleet through American innovation is critical for our economic prosperity, energy security, and responsible stewardship of our planet. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3246.

CONGRATULATIONS PEORIA
CHRISTIAN ELEMENTARY ON
BEING NAMED A NATIONAL
BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. SCHOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Peoria Christian Elementary School in Peoria, Illinois on being named a 2009 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Peoria Christian joined only 49 other private schools, from a pool of more than 27,000, as a private recipient of this award; the school was nominated by the Council for American Private Education, also known as CAPE. By being recognized with the award, Peoria Christian has demonstrated its successes in ensuring students achieve exceptionally high national test scores.

I applaud the concerted effort it took to elevate the school's test scores to such an extraordinary level. As I honor this school I must remind this body that while this award is presented to Peoria Christian School, the award really reflects the combined efforts of all those involved with the school. As former Peoria School Board President, I know that every successful school has the trinity of skilled educators, committed students and involved parents as a base.

Also on a personal note, I always find it impressive to see a school allow for students' academic and personal development. As such, I must applaud the school's commitment to the mission of preparing their "students to lead Christ-like lives." I'm certain that Peoria Christian will not only continue to flourish as an institution for years to come, but that its young students will eventually become active leaders in Peoria, Illinois and throughout these United States.

Again, congratulations Peoria Christian.

NETWORKS PROMOTE PRESI-
DENT'S HEALTH CARE AGENDA

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, National news programs have boosted the Administration's health care agenda and ignored the high costs of a government takeover of health care, according to a study by the Business and Media Institute (BMI).

BMI examined 224 health care stories on ABC, CBS, and NBC from over a five-month period.

The survey found that these stories favored proponents of the Administration's health care plan over critics of the plan by a margin of more than 2-to-1.

Yet the American people are split evenly for and against it, with the trend against it.

Only nine percent of stories mentioned the high cost of the Administration's plan.

And the networks frequently repeated the Administration's incorrect claim that there are 47 million uninsured people in America—a claim the President backed down from during his recent health care speech

The national media should report the facts on health care, not tell Americans what to think.

STUDENT AID FINANCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Financial Responsibility Act, which abolishes a historically successful private-public partnership in the student lending market in favor of a newer government-run program. In an unwise grab for total government control over the student lending market, this Majority is going to destroy a program that has provided need-based financial assistance to thousands of graduate students that have attended Midwestern University in my Congressional District.

Created in 1966, the Federal Family Education Loan program has distributed more than 200 million loans to college students totaling nearly \$800 billion. In 1993, the Direct Loan program—the government "option" in the student lending program—was established to promote competition. Now, this Majority wants to consolidate all federally supported student lending under the Direct Loan Program. Let me be clear about the consequences of this ploy: millions of dollars in financial aid for thousands of students across the country will be lost. Doing away with the Federal Family Education Loan program will also do away with the School as Lender program.

H.R. 3221 ignores the needs of graduate students. School as Lender is a vital need-based aid program for financially struggling graduate student education. Opponents of the School as Lender program have characterized these schools as profit-hungry proxies for commercial lenders. To the contrary, these schools obtain credit to make loans and use the proceeds from their origination to support financial aid. School as Lender institutions are prohibited by law from making money from the program—all proceeds from the sale of loans must be returned to graduate students in the form of need-based grants. School lenders have low default rates, indicating that schools are not irresponsibly encouraging students to